

“Reclaiming our Valley”

Hunter Communities Network

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Tuesday 4 December 2018

Submission of Objection
Glendell Modification 4

Hunter Communities Network (HCN) was established in 2011 to represent communities living near coal mines in the Hunter Region. The ongoing cumulative environmental and social impacts are a result of a major imbalance in decision-making that has increased the disadvantage to remnant communities and isolated private property owners.

HCN objects to the proposed modification to Glendell Mine because it will add to the excessive cumulative impacts of the intensive open cut coal mining operations in this area of the Hunter.

The village of Camberwell suffers regular air pollution from surrounding coal mining operations that is well above the national air quality standards and at critical levels for human health impacts.

The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network monitor situated at Camberwell regularly measures background levels of air quality that breach the national standards for PM₁₀ dust levels. There have been 12 alerts of high air pollution since the beginning of November.

The air quality assessment for this proposed modification has not been conducted under current NSW policy guidelines and has failed to apply the new National Environmental Policy Measures.

These new measures have not been used in the administration of the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy particularly in regard to the cumulative impacts at a regional level.


HCN also objects to the proposed extension of time for the mine by six months to the end of 2024.

Glencore has access to a range of mines and a large volume of coal in the Hunter Region and does not need this modification to Glendell Mine for any economic justification.

HCN is also very concerned about Glencore's attitude to open and transparent information exchange with the Community Consultative Committee across the Mt Owen complex.

The retention of a large final void that will lower the productive value of agricultural land in the region is not acceptable. All open cut mining operations in the Hunter Valley must be required to backfill all mining pits and restore the landscape to the same agricultural class soils present pre-mining.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Smiles".

Bev Smiles
Convenor